

Application Serial No. 09/937,074
Amendment dated December 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated August 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 25 are pending. Claims 18-24 have been canceled. No claims have been allowed.

Applicants have made several amendments to the Specification to correct grammatical and/or idiomatic errors. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement, enclosed herewith for consideration by the Examiner are copies of the references which were lined out by the Examiner in the attachments to the Office Action of August 23, 2004.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to Claim 10, Applicants have amended same to recite that the directional infrared radiation is carried out "using a plurality of directional infrared radiators", such that Claim 10 further limits the scope of Claim 1.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants have deleted the phrase "especially preferably more than 2000 K" from Claim 1. Further, Applicants have written independent Claim 1 to more clearly recite the step of forming a glass-ceramic and/or glass blank.

Regarding the double patenting rejection, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the term of any patent granted on the present patent application which might extend beyond the maximum possible term of any patent granted on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/936,916.

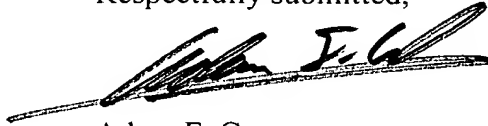
It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Terminal Disclaimer

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 16, 2004, 2004

ADAM F. COX, REG. NO. 46,644

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

December 16, 2004

Date